

work with our children. The bill also requires the U.S. Department of Education to make these recommended standards and best practices electronically accessible, so schools, teachers, and policymakers around the country can put them to use improving our schools.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help improve the quality of American educators by bringing stakeholders together to evaluate what is working, where we are deficient, and to recommend the actions necessary to elevate the education profession in the United States to a standard that serves our children best.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE COORDINATORS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the American Association of Service Coordinators.

Service coordinators work in all U.S. states and territories, but Ohio is where they look to for training, advocacy and support thanks to AASC. In 1999, Janice Monks founded the membership organization out of her home in Central Ohio, which was one of the first regions where service coordinators joined the staff of affordable housing properties with the help of federal grants.

Over the past two decades, AASC has created a documentation system for service coordinators to more easily track and report resident outcomes and has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a formal guidebook outlining industry standards and practices. This year, the organization hosted its largest annual National Service Coordinator Conference in Denver, Colorado and membership exceeded 3,300.

AASC's purpose is to serve as a constant support for service coordinators who empower their residents to live well. Service coordinators serve as a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors and families who need connected to vital supports that keep them living independently or help them move up and out of poverty. In the course of that work, service coordinators also play an integral role in realizing nationwide policy goals such as reducing healthcare costs, keeping older adults in their communities and increasing self-sufficiency.

In honor of AASC's anniversary, service coordinators across the country are celebrating Service Coordinator Day today. My colleagues may be hearing from service coordinators who are recognizing the anniversary by sharing with Congressional offices the profound impact this profession has on our nation's most vulnerable.

I wish to congratulate President Janice Monks and the American Association of Service Coordinators on this milestone anniversary and convey my most sincere appreciation for their dedication to service.

HONORING HARRISON HEUTINCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Harrison Heutinck. Harrison is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Harrison has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Harrison has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Harrison has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Harrison has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Harrison removed and rebuilt a deteriorating staircase in the basement of the Clay County Historical Society Museum in Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Harrison Heutinck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DOWNTOWN FLORIST FOR FIFTEEN YEARS OF BUSINESS IN MASSENA, NY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Downtown Florist on their 15th anniversary serving the Town of Massena.

Downtown Florist was founded in 2005 by Patty and Kenny Wells. With their vision, they transformed a long-vacant gas station into a community staple. Small businesses like Downtown Florist are the backbone of the North Country's economy. They generate the majority of employment and job creation, while driving investment in our local communities. However, most small businesses do not make it longer than five years. For that reason, the 15th anniversary of a business is an achievement worth celebrating.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to congratulate Patty and Kenny Wells for reaching this impressive milestone. They are a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit that defines New York's 21st district. I look forward to their continued success.

THE MODERN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES TAKES SHAPE: AOG HISTORY PART III (1946-1995) SECTION B

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD section B of the third installment of an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates:

WPAF DISSOLVED

AOG celebrated its centennial in 1969, although there is no mention of the Association recognizing its 100th year of existence in any AOG publication that year (it wasn't even brought up at the annual meeting!). In the first year of the Association's second century, two events occurred that significantly changed the direction of AOG: First, Paul Thompson '29 was elected President; second, Major General William Knowlton '43JAN took over as Superintendent from Major General Samuel Koster '42. Thompson and Knowlton, as it turned out, were made for each other, as each was interested in reorganizing and reforming the work of AOG. Weeks before his departure, Koster had announced plans to raise \$10 million through WPAF in order to endow cadet activities, calling the plan the "\$10 Million Cadet Activities Endowment." Ambitious (since, from its inception in 1961, the West Point Fund had raised just \$1.02 million), Koster's plan reportedly resulted in a 369-percent increase in contributions over FY1969, but Knowlton suspended it in the spring of 1970 fearing "that there may be some duplication of our fund-raising efforts" and announcing that "a study is being made to sort out our alumni-related fund-raising efforts." A year later, in the 1971 Annual Report of the Superintendent, Knowlton declared, "Pending at present is a reorganization and consolidation of the West Point Alumni Foundation and the Association of Graduates." To hasten this shakeup, Knowlton had earlier introduced plans to remove the active duty officer from the Office of Assistant to the Superintendent (Gifts Program) who had been working for AOG, and thus limiting the Association's ability to solicit funds for USMA, and to establish the Alumni Affairs and Gifts Program Division, a precursor to today's Directorate of Academy Advancement.

While Knowlton forced the merger between AOG and WPAF, it was up to Thompson to seal the deal. As noted in Lamb's report, the leadership at WPAF feared that funds raised would be directed to AOG "and that USMA at most would get crumbs." At a fall 1970 meeting, Thompson convinced George Olmsted and Cortlandt Schuyler, both Class of 1922 and key WPAF Board members, that this would not be the case. Just a few years earlier, Schuyler had served as AOG President, and his views were valued by Board members of both organizations. Schuyler agreed to work with Thompson on the details of the reorganization, and the following fall they presented these details to the WPAF Board of Managers, who ultimately "decided that it would be in USMA's best interests to transfer its fundraising and publishing responsibilities and all its assets to AOG." On February 8, 1972, AOG and WPAF signed two memorandums of agreement (one for fundraising and one for publishing) to that effect. To that point in time, WPAF had raised \$1.8 million for the Academy. It continued its existence as a backup to AOG from

1972 to 1987, receiving more than \$1,450,000 in gifts and bequests, all of which were transferred to AOG before the Foundation finally voted itself out of business on March 21, 1988.

SEEDS OF "WPAOG" SOWN

Stepping back a bit, one more significant event occurred closely after AOG's centennial, but it's unclear whether it had a direct impact on Thompson and Knowlton's vision to reorganize the Association. In 1972, AOG received a \$1.5 bequest gift from the estate of Leah and Clement Trott, Class of 1899. According to Lamb's report, "The Trott gift gave the AOG the financial flexibility and capability to expand program and activity support of the Academy, as the Cullum gift had provided graduates their administrative center and 'alumni house' at West Point." Lamb would certainly know: Even though AOG was losing its active duty officer in the Superintendent's office, who did a tremendous amount of work for the Association, the Trott gift allowed AOG to now hire and pay a full-time Executive Vice President, and the person the Association hired was Robert Lamb. He retired from his position as Alumni Secretary on the Superintendent's staff on August 31, 1972 and the next day reported to AOG in his new role, which he labels in his report as "managing director." The Trott gift also allowed AOG to hire Stephen O. Fuqua '33 as Director of Development, Michael Krisman '39 as Director of Publications, and a handful more staff personnel for its offices on the lower floors of Cullum Hall.

The early 1970s were an exciting time for the Association. Its membership among graduates was hovering around 97 percent, it completed a record annual appeal in 1970 (\$61,996), and in 1972 AOG's Endowment Fund exceeded the \$3 million mark, providing more than \$100,000 in interest and dividend income to annually fund the Association's operating expenses (in recognition of its surplus, AOG presented a gift of \$25,000 to the Academy). "By the summer of 1973, the basic elements of the reorganization of the Academy's alumni affairs were in place," noted Lamb in his report. Despite these positives, there were still challenges for the reorganized AOG, none bigger than trying to convince more and more graduates to support the Academy with a donation. Most of these graduates had served in an Army for which almost all recreational activities and facilities were paid by appropriated dollars, and they did not comprehend why the Academy needed private funding. Lieutenant General Sidney Berry '48, the 50th Superintendent, addressed this matter in his March 1976 ASSEMBLY letter, stating: "Public funds support the necessities of cadet life, education and training. Privately contributed funds augment programs and activities supported by public funds, provide extracurricular opportunities for cadets, and in general improve the quality of education and training at West Point. In short, they provide the margin of excellence we desire and expect for the Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets," coining a phrase that is essential to AOG's mission today.

More changes familiar to today's AOG came in the 1980s. As the new decade began, AOG had just inaugurated its new travel program with a cruise from Texas and added new trips (three-to-five annually) in the coming years, and it had launched the West Point Preparatory Scholarship Program, which provided funds to deserving candidates who needed additional instruction at a military junior college to ensure success at West Point. In 1981, AOG President George Dixon Jr. '40 convened a long-range planning conference in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, one of the outcomes of which was the establishment of a West Point Societies Program.

Dozens of West Point Societies had been in existence by this time, most assisting the Academy with its Admissions efforts, but they had been relatively autonomous. The new program, which was finally implemented in the fall of 1986 with Morris Herbert '50 as its first Director (aided by James "Skip" Wensyl '52 as Deputy Director of Information), sought to align the 75 or so active societies and encouraged them to assist AOG in achieving its objectives toward the Academy, rather than their own individual objectives. On May 1, 1987, AOG held the first West Point Societies Presidents Conference, a forerunner of today's Leaders Conference, during which Denis Mullane '52, Chairman of AOG's Societies Committee, discussed four key topics with the 53 society representatives present: admissions support, information dissemination, community relations, and strengthening support between AOG and societies. Around this time, AOG also established a new development program to assist West Point classes in their efforts to support the Academy, latter known as Class Giving, complete with support from AOG Financial Services to administrate the funds, ensuring that interest on said funds was properly reinvested (Williams Harrison Jr. '52 became AOG's first Director of Financial Services and Treasurer). Finally, in 1992, AOG introduced the Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA), its second major annual award (the first being the Thayer Award). James Van Fleet, Class of 1915; Matthew Ridgeway, Class of APR1917; Andrew Goodpaster '39, and Thoralf Sundt Jr. '52 were the first recipients of the DGA.

CONCLUSION—AOG'S NEW HOME

By the end of the 1980s, AOG was taking in more than \$5 million annually in donations, establishing a financial position that finally allowed it to realize a decades-long desire to eliminate membership dues, which it did starting with the Class of 1994. What's more, in 1990, Thomas Russell '59, a Planned Giving Officer, took a phone call from the son of graduate who was inquiring about how much money it would take to have a building at West Point named for his father, James K. Herbert, '30. Russell explained that the names for public buildings at the Academy were made by the Secretary of the Army and not named for donors, but that AOG would be willing to name its long-desired alumni center after his father. Thus, upon his death in 1990, Herbert bequeathed \$3 million to AOG, which became the lead gift in a campaign to build what became known as the Herbert Alumni Center. Ground was broken for AOG's new home on April 8, 1993, and its cornerstone was dedicated on October 12, 1993 during Homecoming ceremonies. When the AOG staff moved into Herbert Alumni Center on March 1, 1995, the Association had just completed two banner years: its Development staff raised \$11.04 million from 14,454 gifts in 1994, with graduate participation increasing to 24 percent, an all-time high; and, a year earlier, it stood up its Office of Alumni Support (derived from the West Point Societies Program and complete with Society, Classes, and Communication divisions). But this was just the start of some amazing successes for AOG. Now that it was working out of Herbert Alumni Center, it was about to realize a goal it had established for itself at the 1990 Board of Trustees strategic planning conference, a goal to raise \$100 million for USMA in 10 years, a goal that became known as the Bicentennial Campaign for West Point, and it's the opening subject in the next and final installment of AOG's 150-year history.

RECOGNIZING STATESVILLE BRICK COMPANY FOR 115 YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Statesville Brick Company for 115 years of business.

Due to the Southeast's unique rivers that produce red clay deposits, North Carolina has long been at the center of the brick making economy. This includes company's like Statesville Brick Company which opened its doors in 1904. As times changed though and the post-World War II building boom began to slow, brick makers began closing shop, and small, local operations transitioned into large, interstate corporations. Statesville Brick Company, however, bucked that trend, and remains at heart the same family-run operation it was over a century ago.

For Statesville Brick Company President and General Manager Michael Foster and Executive Vice President Scott Rankin, the brick business is a generational affair. Scott's grandfather E.R. "Roy" Rankin joined the company in 1916 and oversaw the construction of an early iteration of the firm's plant while Michael's father, H.B. "Bob" Foster joined as a partner in 1969. Today, Statesville Brick Company currently employees over 90 people and their work can be found at some of our nation's most prestigious academic institutions such as Princeton University, Ohio State University, and Davidson College.

Statesville Brick Company's 115 years of business are a source of pride for our region, demonstrating how an operation dedicated to high craftsmanship with deep local roots can succeed and thrive in a changing landscape.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Statesville Brick Company for 115 years of business.

HONORING GRANT OWEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Grant Owen. Grant is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Grant has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Grant has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Grant has served his troop as Senior Patrol Leader, earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Grant has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Grant built a shelter and rain barrel system over an information kiosk at Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri.